

**March 20, 2007**

**Press Release** | Contact: Danielle Langone (202) 225-6416

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**WASHINGTON, DC**—Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.) today hailed the agreement reached in the U.S. Senate to continue to fund the county payments program, also known as the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act, for an additional four years. DeFazio was instrumental in getting a one-year extension of the payments included in the House Emergency Supplemental funding bill.

“I am pleased that an agreement on long-term funding for the successful county payments program has been reached in the Senate,” DeFazio said. “Thanks to Senator Ron Wyden's efforts and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's recognition of the importance of this funding, counties will continue to receive the funding they rely on to pay for vital services like law enforcement, schools, and road maintenance.

“This agreement would ensure that counties continue to receive funding at a reduced rate for an additional four years beyond the one-year extension of full funding that I was able to get included in the House Emergency Supplemental funding bill.”